

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Module Four



Episcopal Diocese of Florida

Deacon School

June 2020

Opening Reflection

Reflect on this prior to beginning this Module and again when you complete all assignments.

What are your earliest memories of reading the Bible? Think about a memory or experience you had reading the Bible or hearing it read. What thoughts or feelings did you have and how have these thoughts and feelings changed?

Objectives

After completing this module, the Postulant will be able to:

- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the narrative arc of the Bible;
- ✓ Articulate an understanding of “inspiration” and “revelation” with regard to composition and interpretation;
- ✓ Demonstrate a knowledge of the sections of and books of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Apocrypha, and the New Testament, and the types of literature that compose them;
- ✓ Manifest an understanding of the Canon of Holy Scripture as a “unity” with a diversity of writers, genres, and contexts;
- ✓ Demonstrate his or her knowledge of and ability to use basic Bible study aids such as a concordance, a word study dictionary, a Bible dictionary, a Bible encyclopedia, and Bible commentaries, including online sources;
- ✓ Articulate the basic kerygma of the New Testament; and
- ✓ Demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the Gospel as understood from the perspectives of each of the Evangelists.

Required Reading

Brueggemann, Walter, *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*, 2nd ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

Longman III, Tremper and Dillard, Raymond B., *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

The second edition this book integrates and interacts with recent developments in Old Testament scholarship to give readers a solid understanding of three key issues: historical background, literary analysis, and theological message.

Brown, Raymond Edward. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997.

Brown, a Roman Catholic priest, analyzes each of the 27 books in the New Testament, devoting painstaking attention to sources, dates, and authorship, as well as commentary on the spiritual, historical, and thematic aspects.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the New Testament*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010.

Johnson deftly guides his reader through a wealth of historical and literary description, and invites critical reflection on the meaning of these ancient writings for today.

An Episcopal Church-approved translation of the Bible

In addition to the above readings, basic study references, such as a concordance, a word study dictionary, a Bible dictionary, a Bible encyclopedia, and Bible commentaries (books or online) may be helpful in the completion of the Holy Scripture assignments.

Supplementary Resources

Achtemeier, Paul J., *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. New York: HarperOne, 1996.

Bartlett, David L. and Taylor, Barbara Brown, eds., *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Bauckham, Richard – *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*
Winner of the 2007 *Christianity Today* Book Award in Biblical Studies, this momentous volume argues that the four Gospels are closely based on the eyewitness testimony of those who personally knew Jesus. Noted New Testament scholar Richard Bauckham challenges the prevailing assumption that the Jesus accounts circulated as "anonymous community traditions," asserting instead that they were transmitted in the names of the original eyewitnesses. In this expanded second edition Bauckham is adding a new preface, three substantial new chapters that respond to critics and clarify key points of his argument, and a comprehensive new bibliography.

Benjamin, Don C., *The Old Testament Story: An Introduction*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003.

Berlin, Adele, Brettler, Marc Zvi, and Fishbane, Michael (eds). *The Jewish Study Bible Featuring the Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation*. Oxford: University Press, 2004.

Countryman, L. William, *Dirt, Greed and Sex*, rev. ed. Fortress Press, 2004.

Drane, John – *Introducing the New Testament*

Written for a broad audience, John Drane's survey textbook provides a solid historical foundation for understanding the persons, events, and cultural context of the New Testament. Arranged historically, Drane's text takes readers through the world of the first Christians, the life and teaching of Jesus, the origins and growth of the Early Church, the life, mission and letters of Paul, how the Gospels were composed, Revelation, and how the New Testament was formed and has been interpreted and used by later generations.

Ferlo, Roger, *Opening the Bible: The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume Two*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1997.

Freedman, David Noel, *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* (6 Volume Set). Doubleday / Yale University Press, 1992

Originally published by Doubleday and acquired in 2007 by Yale University Press, the Anchor Bible Dictionary contains more than 6,000 entries from 800 international scholars. It is also available on CD-ROM from Logos Bible Software or Accordance for Macintosh.

Gomes, Peter J., *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. New York, Morrow, 1996.

Grieb, A. Katherine, *The Story of Romans: A Narrative Defense of God's Righteousness*, Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Johnston, Michael, *Engaging the Word: The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume Three*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1998.

Kugel, James L., *The Bible as it Was*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997.

McKenzie, Steven L. and Kaltner, John, *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth & Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.

Meeks, Wayne A., *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*, New Haven, CT: Yale, 2003.

Metzger, Bruce M., *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth & Content*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003.

The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Volumes 1-5. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.

Newsome, Carol A. and Ringe, Sharon A. (eds.), *Women's Bible Commentary*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Parker, David, *The Living Text of the Gospels*. Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Schneiders, Sandra M., *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*, New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1991.

Wright, N.T., "*The Bible for Everyone*" series of New Testament commentaries. These books have various titles and are published by Westminster John Knox Press with various release dates.

Levine, Amy-Jill, *Short Stories by Jesus*. The Enigmatic parables of a controversial rabbi. HarperOne.

Levine, Amy-Jill and Marc Zvi Brettler, *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation, Oxford University Press.

On-line Resources

Biblehub – <https://biblehub.com>

Biblegateway – <https://biblegateway.com>

Bible Odyssey – <https://www.bibleodyssey.org>

Bible Project – <https://www.bibleproject.com>

Mark Goodacre NT Podcast – <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/nt-pod/id319974061?mt=2>

MODULE 4 – ASSIGNMENTS

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Mentor: The Rev. Remington Slone

- 1) During your time of preparation for the diaconate, read the entire Bible, including the Apocrypha, using one of the Episcopal Church-approved translations. Make entries in a journal (style of your choosing) noting significant themes, ideas, and spiritual insights found in each book.
- 2) Read *considerable portions* of the major divisions of the two required books on the Old Testament. In a 5-10 page paper, summarize the major sections of the Old Testament as they are described in these works. Please note the major features of the Old Testament which have captured your attention.
- 3) Read *considerable portions* of the major divisions of the two required books on the New Testament. In a 7-10 page paper, summarize the major sections of the New Testament as they are described in these works. Please note the major features of the New Testament which have captured your attention.
- 4) Using the two required books on the New Testament, select one passage of scripture held in all three of the synoptic Gospels (the triple tradition). In a 5-7 page essay, compare and contrast this passage in each of the traditions, making note of their key similarities, differences, and importance to the Evangelists' thesis.
- 5) Choose a portion (pericope) of scripture in the New Testament to exegete (agreed upon with your Module Four mentor). Develop a lesson for an adult Bible study in your parish. The lesson should be designed to prepare your congregation to more deeply understand justice and mercy from a Biblical perspective. Use your ministry in the world as an example of either justice or mercy ministry, and explain how scripture supports this ministry. Be prepared to teach this class at Deacon School.
- 6) Explain the evidence for the diaconate/order of deacons in the Book of Acts and the New Testament Epistles. Write a 3-5 page paper explaining the roles deacons played and the importance of their roles.
- 7) In an essay of 5-7 pages, describe the major covenants of the scriptural canon, noting their similarities and differences. Please make special reference to the purpose and place of the "New Covenant" within this framework of covenants.
- 8) **SYNTHESIS** – Write a 4-5 page paper that synthesizes your personal faith statement concerning the Church's Canon of Holy Scripture in general and the Gospel of Christ in particular. Please articulate your understanding of Scripture as inspired, authoritative, revelatory, and personally transformative.

Module Four Evaluation

Holy Scripture

Postulant: _____

The mentor assess the Postulant's work on each assignment in the module. The mentor will document on this form, whether the assignment was completed satisfactorily. The mentor may add additional comments if desired. If the assignment is not completed satisfactorily, the mentor must add comments regarding the deficiencies. The mentor will review the evaluation with the Postulant and the Deacon School Co-facilitators.

	Assignment	Complete/Incomplete
1	During your time of preparation for the diaconate, read the entire Bible, including the Apocrypha, using one of the Episcopal Church-approved translations. Make entries in a journal (style of your choosing) noting significant themes, ideas, and spiritual insights found in each book.	
2	Read <i>considerable portions</i> of the major divisions of the two required books on the Old Testament. In a 5-10 page paper, summarize the major sections of the Old Testament as they are described in these works. Please note the major features of the Old Testament which have captured your attention.	
3	Read <i>considerable portions</i> of the major divisions of the two required books on the New Testament. In a 7-10 page paper, summarize the major sections of the New Testament as they are described in these works. Please note the major features of the New Testament which have captured your attention.	
4	Using the two required books on the New Testament, select one passage of scripture held in all three of the synoptic Gospels (the triple tradition). In a 5-7 page essay, compare and contrast this passage in each of the traditions, making note of their key similarities, differences, and importance to the Evangelists' thesis.	
5	Choose a portion (pericope) of scripture in the New Testament to exegete (agreed upon with your Module Four mentor). Develop a lesson for an adult Bible study in your parish. The lesson should be designed to prepare your congregation to more deeply understand justice and mercy from a Biblical perspective. Use your ministry in the world as an example of either justice or mercy ministry, and explain how scripture supports this ministry. Be prepared to teach this class at Deacon School.	

6	Explain the evidence for the diaconate/order of deacons in the Book of Acts and the New Testament Epistles. Write a 3-5 page paper explaining the roles deacons played and the importance of their roles.	
7	In an essay of 5-7 pages, describe the major covenants of the scriptural canon, noting their similarities and differences. Please make special reference to the purpose and place of the "New Covenant" within this framework of covenants.	
8	SYNTHESIS – Write a 4-5 page paper that synthesizes your personal faith statement concerning the Church's Canon of Holy Scripture in general and the Gospel of Christ in particular. Please articulate your understanding of Scripture as inspired, authoritative, revelatory, and personally transformative.	

Signatures:

Mentor:

Postulant:

Date: _____

Date: _____